



## Committee on City Services and the Northampton City Council

### Committee Members:

*Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell*

*Councilor Maureen T. Carney, Chair*

*Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge, Vice-Chair*

*Councilor Ryan R. O'Donnell*

### MEETING MINUTES

**Date: December 5, 2016**

**Time: 4:00 p.m.**

**Location: City Council Chambers  
212 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts**

1. Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call: At 4:07 p.m. Councilor Carney called the meeting to order. Present were: Councilors Bidwell, LaBarge and Carney. Councilor O'Donnell was absent.
2. Public Comment : None
3. Department Presentation: Information Technology – Today's presentation was postponed until the January meeting. Councilor Carney explained that there will be a presentation about the upcoming changes in the department at the December 15, 2016 meeting. She wondered if it made sense to expect the department to come to the committee meeting so soon after the 12/15 presentation by the Mayor. Councilor Bidwell recognized that the Council would have the opportunity to ask questions at the meeting and thought it might make sense not to have the department come in again so soon afterward. Since there is no other departments scheduled to come in, Councilor Carney thought it might make sense to start the rotation over again. Councilor LaBarge thought that with eleven appointments coming in, it would be better to concentrate clearing those appointments out of the pipeline. The committee agreed.
4. Approve Minutes of the November 7, 2016 meeting: Councilor Bidwell moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor O'Donnell).
5. Items Referred to Committee: In the absence of Councilor O'Donnell's feedback about his appointment assignments today, the committee decided it would make sense to return the appointments back to the full City Council without a recommendation. When taken up in the Consent Agenda these appointments would be removed from the Consent Agenda where the full Council could hear from Councilor O'Donnell. This will prevent these appointments from being held up by the Committee today. The candidates who will not be discussed today are as follows:
  - License Commission: Natasha Yakovlev, 147 Nonotuck Street, Florence – term November 2016 – June 2022 (to fill William Rosen's space)
  - Redevelopment Authority: Roisin Quinn, 35 New South Street, #207, Northampton - term November 2016 – June 2018

A. 16.193 Appointments to Various Committees - Referred to Committee on November 3, 2016

**Agricultural Commission: Stanley Zawalick, 538 Sylvester Road, Florence – term (reappointment)**

Councilor LaBarge reports that Mr. Zawalick owns a farm on Sylvester Road. Mr. Zawalick is very interested in being reappointed to the Agricultural Commission. His family has been involved in farming for several generations. They have a maple sugar business; they also raise beef cattle and sell the meat. Mr. Zawalick is pleased that the City is taking care of the brush in the meadows. These efforts will help to farm this land.

Councilor LaBarge moved a positive recommendation back to the full City Council; Councilor Bidwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor O'Donnell).

**Arts Council: Jill St. Coeur, 44 Willow Street, Florence – term November 2016 – June 2019**

Councilor LaBarge reports that Ms. St. Coeur has lived in this community for almost thirty years. She has had a career at Smith College Theater Department and has also been a board member on the Center For the Arts in the early 1990's. Currently she has been an active volunteer for First Night, Sundays in February, etc. Now that she is retired she would like to stay involved in the Arts industry. She is please about having more public infusion in the arts and cites the Book Arts Fair and Florence Night Out as two examples. She would like to use her expertise to deliver more of these types of opportunities in the City. Ms. St. Coeur is also interested in learning more about the grant opportunities that exist for Arts programs. She would also like to participate by doing some of the leg work for the existing programs, like distributing flyers, being on-hand at events, and helping spread the word about events that are offered.

Councilor LaBarge moved a positive recommendation back to the full City Council; Councilor Bidwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor O'Donnell).

**Conservation Commission: Jessica Pica, 3 High Street, Florence – term November 2016 – June 2019**

Councilor Carney reported that Ms. Pica is a Water Engineer for Milone & MacBroom, a firm based out of Cheshire, Connecticut (Ms. Pica works in their Springfield, MA office). This firm does environmental planning for its customers and Ms. Pica is aware of the application process for environmental projects.

Councilor LaBarge moved a positive recommendation back to the full City Council; Councilor Bidwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor O'Donnell).

**License Commission: Natasha Yakovlev, 147 Nonotuck Street, Florence – term November 2016 – June 2022 (to fill William Rosen's space)**

Councilor Bidwell moved a neutral recommendation back to the full City Council; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor O'Donnell). SEE COMMENTS ABOVE.

B. 16.194 Appointments to the Redevelopment Authority - Referred to Committee on November 3, 2016

• **Ed Skroski, 70 Beacon Street, Florence – term March 2016 – June 2021 (reappointment)**

Councilor LaBarge reports that she has talked with Mr. Skroski and learned that he has been on the Redevelopment Authority for a long time. For half of his time he has been the committee's Chair. He would like to be reappointed to the committee to serve for a couple more years.

Councilor Carney explained that a memo was received from the Mayor's Office about the Redevelopment Authority. The Committee was formed in the 1970s to deal with the buildup of the Industrial Park. Since that time there has not been much opportunity or need for the committee to meet. The Mayor recognizes that there are occasions now where there might be cause for that committee to take on items. One such item was the recent redevelopment in the Damon Road area.

Councilor Bidwell moved a positive recommendation back to the full City Council; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor O'Donnell).

- **Patrick Goggins, 20 Bridge Road, Florence – term November 2016 – June 2020**

Councilor Carney did not speak directly with Mr. Goggins but notes that he worked on several committees in the City, including the Charter Commission, the Board of Public Works, and Housing Partnership. He has also served on the Chamber of Commerce and the Hampshire County Commission. He was also an At-Large City Councilor for a period of time.

Councilor LaBarge moved a positive recommendation back to the full City Council; Councilor Bidwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor O'Donnell).

- **Christopher Cahillane, 384 South Street, Northampton – term November 2016 – June 2019**

Councilor LaBarge reports that Mr. Cahillane is looking forward to serving time on the Redevelopment Committee and giving his time to the City. He has run multiple businesses in Northampton as well as raised a family here. He feels this will enable him to bring valuable insight to the Committee.

Councilor LaBarge moved a positive recommendation back to the full City Council; Councilor Bidwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor O'Donnell).

- **Roisin Quinn, 35 New South Street, #207, Northampton - term November 2016 – June 2018**

Councilor Bidwell moved a neutral recommendation back to the full City Council; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor O'Donnell). SEE COMMENTS ABOVE.

6. New Business: The committee reviewed the upcoming appointments that will be discussed at the January 9, 2017 meeting. The assignments are as follows:

**Councilor Bidwell:**

Community Preservation Committee: Linda Morley, 244 Prospect Street, Northampton – January 2017 – June 2019 (reappointment)

Historical Commission: Barbara Blumenthal, 39 Chapel Street, Northampton – term September 2016 – June 2018 (reappointment)

Historical Commission: Martha Lyon, 313 Elm Street, Northampton – term September 2016 – June 2019 (reappointment)

Zoning Board of Appeals: David Bloomberg, 86 Vernon Street, Northampton- term March 2015 – June 2018 (reappointment)

**Councilor LaBarge:**

Council on Aging: Donna Park, 205 Prospect Street, Northampton – term November 2016 – June 2019

Zoning Board of Appeals: Bob Riddle, 47 Water Street, Leeds- term March 2015 – June 2018 (reappointment)

Historical Commission: Bruce Kriviskey, 23 Ice Pond Drive, Florence – term September 2016 – June 2018 (reappointment)

Historical Commission: David Drake, 321 Locust Street, Florence – term September 2016 – June 2019 (reappointment)

**Councilor Carney:**

Council on Aging:- Mark NeJame, 47 High Street, Florence – term November 2016 – June 2019

**Councilor O'Donnell**

Historical Commission: Dylan Gaffney, 23 Marshall Street, Northampton – term September 2016 – June 2019 (reappointment)

Zoning Board of Appeals: Sara Northrup, 147 Hinckley Street, Florence – term March 2016 – June 2019 (reappointment)

The next meeting is January 9, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Councilor Bidwell proposed that at the next meeting the Committee look at certain issues rather than invite only one department at a time to come and talk to the committee. He wondered what approach that might be and whether it would be worth talking about. Councilor LaBarge liked this idea. A few of the committees that were planned early on in the year were not able to come to the meeting. Councilor Carney agreed. Also, Councilor LaBarge suggested that if City departments were done, perhaps agencies could be invited.

6. Adjourn : At 4:28 p.m. Councilor Bidwell moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor O'Donnell).

*Prepared By:  
P. Powers, Administrative Assistant*